

REMARKS

With the present paper, the claims have been amended as they were in the 1.116 amendment filed January 11, 2005, which was not entered by the Examiner. Claim 6 has been withdrawn.

Applicant would like to express his appreciation to the Examiner for discussing this case with applicant's representative on March 8 and 10, 2005. During the discussion, applicant's representative explained the present invention to the Examiner. The Examiner then conducted a supplemental search and mentioned U.S. patent nos. 6,699,125; 6,755,743; and 6,587,691. A supplemental information disclosure statement is being filed concurrently herewith to cite these documents.

It is submitted that the architecture of each the systems disclosed by the three newly cited patents is different from the presently claimed architecture. During the interview, the Examiner asked about the advantages of the claimed architecture compared with the architecture disclosed in U.S. patent no. 6,755,743, which discloses a single server system. Applicant notes that a separate profile server (as opposed to a information providing server integrated with a profile server i.e., single server system) can manage profiles of players with respect to multiple games.

With respect to TANG, applicant submits that the claimed forwarding information from the server *providing the service* is patentably distinguishable (and a non-obvious

variation) from forwarding the information from the device *requesting the service*, as done by TANG. Thus, the claimed centralized system is not taught or suggested. The Examiner is respectfully directed to col. 11, line 66 - col. 12, line 7; col. 12, lines 29 - 33; col. 12, line 61 - col. 13, line 5; and col. 13, lines 38 - 65. Although col. 12, line 61 refers to a "communications server 80," it is believed that the server is software on the client PC and not a separate server. The "directory service 129" is explained at col. 11, lines 41 - 44 and also does not correspond to the claimed servers. Consequently, TANG does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1, for example, the information providing server notifying the profile server or "forwarding status information from the game server to a profile server." It is thus requested that the Examiner indicate the allowability of claim 1.

Claims 2 and 5 have been revised to positively recite the child indicator. It is submitted that none of the applied references teach or suggest the combination of claimed features. Consequently, it is respectfully requested that the examiner withdraw the rejections of the claims and indicate the allowability of pending claims 2 and 5.

Dependent claims 3 and 4 are also believed to recite further patentable subject matter of the invention and therefore are also believed allowable over the prior art. As such, allowance of the dependent claims is deemed proper for at least the same reasons noted for the independent claims, in addition to reasons related to their own recitations. For example, claim 3 now recites at least three utilization states of the information

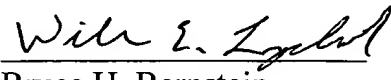
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service. At best, the applied reference shows only two utilization states of the information service: on and off, as disclosed in col. 6, line 67 - col. 7, line 1. The more general states of activity disclosed in TANG et al. do not pertain to the specifically claimed utilization state *of the information service*, which is of course provided by a server. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the outstanding rejections and an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application.

The above amendments have been presented merely for the purpose of clarification, and not to overcome the applied prior art. Accordingly, no estoppel is deemed to result from any of the present amendments.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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